



Zululand Anthracite Colliery

Timeline of actions taken following slurry spill incident at ZAC

24 December 2021

At approximately 15H50 on the 24th of December 2021 on duty employees noticed and notified ZAC control room of the slurry dam wall failure. All the relevant government departments and stakeholders were notified of the incident immediately telephonically.

The slurry dam wall plugged to prevent further material being released into the environment and the clean-up operation commenced.

25 December 2021

An alarm email notification was sent to community representatives with email access, Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park as well as both Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) and Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

The clean-up actions started immediately from the source further advancing downslope towards the Mvalo River. Slurry plume with contaminated soil was scooped with an excavator and loaded to an ADT which took it to the discard dump for disposal.

- Eight sampling points from both Mvalo and Mfolozi River were identified for sampling on the 26th of December.

26 December 2021

Site inspection was conducted by a DWS official who then issued a verbal directive for the clean-up operation to continue and progress further to Mvalo River downstream. This continued for the days to follow

28 December 2021

About 20 ZAC employees were diverted from the other mine activities to assist with the clean-up by scooping the slurry on the river banks and loading on wheel barrows for pushing to a distant location where the front-end loader was to load onto an ADT for final discard dump disposal. This was done to limit impacts on the river banks by heavy machinery.

29 December 2021

A representative from the Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park came for a site inspection which was concluded to his satisfaction including the clean-up efforts which were employed.

03 January 2022

All four tribal councils were visited and physically informed of what was done to remedy the situation and they all appreciated the visit as well as the update on the clean-up efforts.

An official from Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) came for a site inspection to assess the impact of the spill and the clean-up efforts involved. She came from Ulundi local office



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04 January 2022

EDTEA Provincial office sent further four representatives for site assessment. They were all taken through the site and further discussions were held after the site inspection at our boardroom. They were satisfied with the clean-up efforts.

Written Confirmation of the verbal directive received on the 26th came from the DWS on the same day.

05 January 2022

An official of the DMRE came for a site inspection. We took him through to all the areas as requested and he was also satisfied with the clean-up efforts involved. Further advice was issued on the detailed site assessment.

A community future forum meeting where all Izinduna, Recruitment committees as well as SAPS members gather was held on that day. The incidence update was given to them and they appreciated all the clean-up efforts involved.

After the future forum meeting another community meeting was held with Jahidada community members where the update on the clean-up efforts were detailed and further queries answered.

Drone flights over the Mvalo River were also undertaken to direct clean-up efforts

10 January 2022

MENCO Environmental Services and GFK Consulting were appointed as to assess environmental impact as well as the root cause of the incidence and assist with compliance with the issued directive from DWS. Studies regarding possible pollution to be conducted.

11 January 2022

Written compliance notice was received from DMRE regarding the incident via DMRE.

Drone flights over the Mvalo River were also undertaken to further direct clean-up efforts.

12 January 2022

A community complaint forwarded by the DMRE was received. Both mechanical and manual clean-up efforts continuing as directed to ensure the satisfaction of the authorities.

13 January 2022

Site inspection conducted by Ulundi Local Municipality.

14 January 2022

Site inspection undertaken by task committee as appointed by Minister of Environmental Affairs. A second investigation conducted at the St Lucia estuary.

18 January 2022

A Joint Operations Committee site visit involved stakeholders namely the DWS, DMR, KZN DEDTEA and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife under the lead of DFFE to be undertaken and feedback provided of preliminary findings on impacts to the Umfolozi River.