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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Regional Director  
Department of Mineral Resources  
UCS Building  
Cnr Smith & Rissik Street  
Braamfontein  
2017

YOUR REF: **GP30/5/1/1/2/10022PR** and **GP30/5/1/1/2/10030PR**

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Application for prospecting Rights (with bulk sampling) on Portions of the farm Koesterfontein 45 IQ, Kaalfontein 44 IQ and Rietpoort 395 JQ – Magaliesburg by Applicant Autumn Skies Trading 455 cc**

I \_\_\_\_\_ as interested/affected party hereby raise the following objections to the application for prospecting rights.

**Consultation:**

- 1) The appointed consultant, Future Mining Consultants, has failed to consult with respective landowners and/or affected parties in accordance with the required regulations.
- 2) The consultant has failed to provide affected parties with numerous pertinent information and documentation that was requested from the onset, at the public participation meeting and subsequently via email.

**Issues:**

- 1) The proposed prospecting area falls on eco-sensitive Class 1 Ridges noted as important sites with High Agricultural Potential. These ridges are extremely biodiverse and threatened ecozones.

- 2) The proposed prospecting area falls within close proximity to the UNESCO Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site and Buffer Zones.
- 3) The proposed prospecting area falls within the Bloubank River catchment which feeds the Magalies River from which an estimated 6,500-8,000 households are reliant on the water for domestic purposes. The Magalies River also feeds into Hartebeespoort Dam.
- 4) Surface and ground water resources in Magaliesburg and the Cradle area are already threatened and under increased pressure from activities such as mining and industry. Specialist studies conducted for Mogale city Local Municipality recommend to “conserve the existing natural water resources eg. rivers and wetlands”.
- 5) The proposed area contains numerous heritage sites and relics from the Anglo Boer War including Grave Sites.
- 6) Prospecting activities would negatively impact the strong tourism sector of Magaliesburg as well as the micro-economic activities and livelihoods of landowners, families and labourers.
- 7) Magaliesburg is an entry point to the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site and the area has been flagged for tourism with the Magalies Meander route formalised as a tourist attraction.
- 8) The area has documented red data fauna and flora species.
- 9) The area is very stressed for groundwater and cannot support any high water consuming activities such as prospecting and there is no reticulated water.
- 10) Numerous groundwater sources within the Cradle of Humankind area have already been affected by Acid Mine Drainage from years of irresponsible mining on the West Rand and can not sustain any further pollution especially not from proposed mining activities that will be localised. Such a move would destroy one of the richest and most important heritage sites in South Africa.
- 11) The proposed size of the bulk sample trench on Application: GP30/5/1/1/2/10022PR already equates to open cast mining and the methods used to expose the trench and remove the sediment would negatively impact the surrounding eco-systems, environment, businesses and residences. The existing access roads also cannot support such invasive activities.

I/we reserve my/our right to add any further comments, issues or objections as and when they may be raised or realised.

Yours Sincerely

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