



## In this issue

### PROPOSED ONSHORE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATIONS



**Title:** Proposed Regulations Pertaining to the Exploration and Production of Onshore Oil and Gas Requiring Hydraulic Fracturing

**Gazette reference:** GN 2273 in GG 47112 of 11 July 2022

**Deadline for submitting comments:** 25 August 2022

On 11 July 2022, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment published draft regulations under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, pertaining to the exploration and production of onshore oil and gas requiring hydraulic fracturing.

The proposed new regulations identify prohibited activities and prohibited geographic areas for the use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") technology, which include the use of potable water for fracking activities and the use of municipal water treatment facilities for the disposal of wastes

from fracking operations. The Regulations also require environmental authorisation for each phase of the process, including seismic surveys without fracking, fracking and the production phase. General and specific requirements are set for ongoing environmental monitoring and hydraulic fracturing and production operation, while effect is given to coordination between decision-making authorities in relation to monitoring, environmental assessments, timeframes for the consideration of applications, conditions of approval and the decision-making process.

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments within 45 days (i.e. by 25 August 2022) to the Department or by email to [dfischer@dffe.gov.za](mailto:dfischer@dffe.gov.za).

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## DRAFT NATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MERCURY IN SOUTH AFRICA



**Title:** Consultation on the Draft National Regulations for the Management of Mercury in South Africa

**Gazette reference:** GN 2244 in GG 46674 of 6 July 2022

**Deadline for submission of comments:** 5 August 2022

On 6 July 2022, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment published the draft Regulations for the Management of Mercury in South Africa, developed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

The draft Regulations are intended to domesticate the Minamata Convention on Mercury (the Convention), which South Africa ratified in 2019. The objectives of the draft Regulations are in

line with the objectives of the Convention.

The purpose of the Draft Regulations is -

- to eliminate the anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury;
- to limit processes emitting and releasing mercury into the environment;
- to phase out mercury added products;
- to phase down dental amalgam; and
- to regulate mercury storage facilities and trade.

This is to be achieved with import and export restrictions, restrictions of mercury in manufacturing processes, registration and reporting regulations, regulations for storage of mercury, and plans for mercury phase-out and phase down.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments by 5 August 2022. Comments can be sent by email to [tsebego@dffe.gov.za](mailto:tsebego@dffe.gov.za).

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## **DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY 2022**



**Title:** Consultation on the Draft White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity 2022

**Gazette reference:** GN 2252 in GG 46687 of 8 July 2022

**Deadline for submitting comments: 6 September 2022**

On 8 July 2022, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment published the draft White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable use of South Africa's Biodiversity, 2022 for public comments.

The draft White Paper gives effect to the recommendations made by the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLP) appointed in 2019 to review our current policies, legislation, and practices on matters of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros management, breeding, hunting, trade and handling.

The White Paper emphasizes partnerships and adopting participatory and consensus approaches throughout the biodiversity sector, which will promote meaningful participation and influence of all stakeholders, with communal rather than individual outcomes. These shifts aim to provide a clear understanding of the intent and aspirations of South Africa, in terms of promoting conservation to achieve protection of the environment, as well as securing ecologically sustainable use to promote justifiable economic and social development.

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments by 6 September 2022 to [whitepaper@dffe.gov.za](mailto:whitepaper@dffe.gov.za).

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## **WASTE ACT: EXTENSION OF REPORTING PERIOD BY IDENTIFIED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANISATIONS**

**Title:** National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008): Notice of Extension of Reporting Period by Identified Producer Responsibility Organisations and Producers to the Extended Producer Responsibility Online System Until 31 August 2022

**Gazette reference:** GN 2328 in GG 47134 of 29 July 2022

**Commencement date:** 29 July 2022

On 5 November 2020, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment published the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations, 2020 and Notices regarding the establishment and implementation of extended producer responsibility schemes for the electrical and electronic

equipment sector, the lighting sector, and the paper, packaging and some single-use products. The implementation of the EPR schemes was deferred for a period of 6 months to 5 May 2021 to enable the affected sectors some time to prepare for implementation.

From 5 May to 5 November 2021, the registration of the producers and producer responsibility organisations took place. Regulation 8 of the Extended Producer Regulations, 2020 (as amended) requires Producer Responsibility Organisations and Producers that implement their own Extended Producer Responsibility schemes to submit their interim performance reports on or before **31 August 2022**.

The EPR online reports can be uploaded on <http://sawic.environment.gov.za/EPR>. Any enquiries in connection with the EPR online reporting can be directed by email to [epr@sawic.gov.za](mailto:epr@sawic.gov.za).