

SESSION 6:

SUSTAINABLE MINE CLOSURE

Chair: Musa Mabuza (CGS) | Venue: Boardroom 3

Mining continues to be one of the driving forces of the South African economy. The country has experienced over 100 years of gold mining, resulting in the current acid mine drainage legacy in the Witwatersrand Basin. South Africa has also been mining coal since the early 1800. In this regard, coal has been the major component of the South African power supply industry. This is predicted to continue into the latter half of the twenty-first century. However, after nearly 150 years of coal mining, the country is now facing closure of many coal mines. This then calls for proactive thinking regarding development of sustainable tools/solutions/approaches that can be deployed post mine closure to minimise environmental degradation, social and economic stagnation and further support community upliftment. In line with the above mining industry imperatives, this session will focus on showcasing WRC-supported research and development work that has sought to develop innovative solutions/tools/approaches that can be deployed and utilised in the mining sector in support of sustainable mine closure. The tools, innovations and approaches for sustainable mine closure to be presented and discussed generally focus on shifting the traditional mindset on mine closure to promote environmental, social and economic sustainability in support of community upliftment.

PROGRAMME

11:00 – 11:10	Welcome and introduction of session Chair	John Ngoni Zvimba (WRC)
11:10 – 11:30	Enabling environment for mine water rehabilitation of disused mines	David Love (Golder Associates)
11:30 – 11:50	Pit lakes as sustainable options for mine closure in South Africa	Andrew Johnstone (GCS)
11:50 – 12:10	Mine water reuse – Irrigation using poor quality mine water	John Annandale (UP)
12:10 – 12:30	Web-based Mine Water Atlas Demonstration	Trevor Coleman (Golder Associates)
12:30 – 12:55	Q&A/Discussion	Facilitated by Carla Hudson (MWCB)
12:55 – 13:00	Closing remarks	Molefe Morokane (DMR)