



## US PGM OPERATIONS

### WORKING TOGETHER: THE GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT

FACT SHEET 2019

In 2000, Stillwater signed the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) with three local stakeholder organisations: the Northern Plains Resource Council, the Stillwater Protective Association and the Cottonwood Resource Council.



■ A Good Neighbor interaction event in the US

The GNA, unique within the mining industry, provides an innovative framework for the protection of the natural environment while encouraging responsible economic development. It contractually binds Sibanye-Stillwater to certain commitments and holds us to a higher standard than that required by federal and state regulatory processes.

Our commitments include transparent and productive interaction with all affected stakeholders, using the GNA as a vehicle for dispute resolution and positive stakeholder engagement.

Each of Sibanye-Stillwater's mine sites in the US has a Good Neighbor Oversight Committee that meets three times a year. In addition to these formal, minuted meetings, the Technology Committee and other committees meet as needed. The various groupings that make up the GNA generally communicate weekly to address

ongoing projects. Members also meet socially throughout the year. In recent years, the Stillwater Protective Association has hosted a barbecue for the community where Sibanye-Stillwater provides a site update and answers community members' questions.

The GNA funds mining and groundwater experts who advise the group, allowing the citizens' organisations to understand the US business in enough detail to fully assess potential environmental and social impacts, and to engage in the science and technology behind Sibanye-Stillwater's US operations. Such understanding enables the Group to provide feedback on the areas of permitting and mine planning in advance of formal comment periods so that permitting strategy can be adjusted to address neighbours' concerns where necessary. This system reduces permitting delays and largely eliminates negativity during public comment periods.

Through the GNA, we are working with the Stillwater Protective Association and Cottonwood Resource Council to develop a stakeholder-driven, independent water monitoring and assurance plan aligning with the goals and objectives of the GNA.

## FOCUS AREAS

### Traffic

The GNA includes traffic restrictions, which are frequent subjects of conversation among the parties. In 2018, a logistics co-ordinator was hired to focus on consolidating commercial loads to reduce traffic to the Stillwater mine. Sibanye- Stillwater also installed signage near one of the towns on the way to the mine to encourage motorists to reduce their travelling speeds. In addition, employees are encouraged to travel to the mine in buses provided by the organisation.

### Tailings facilities

Work was continued on the East Boulder tailings storage facilities. Stage 4 is currently under construction with a formal environmental assessment underway for the future Stage 6 facility. The East Boulder Stage 6 facility is the first in Montana to be subjected to an Independent Review Panel (IRP) review and approval process. In addition to the Stage 6 work, the same IRP experts will begin reviewing the next phase of tailings and waste rock disposal at both the East Boulder and Stillwater Mines.

These activities and efforts were all completed in collaboration with stakeholders including the Good Neighbors, regulatory agencies, independent review panel experts, and local communities. The GNA is helping this process run more smoothly and efficiently, especially bearing in mind that tailings storage facilities with a 40- to 50-year life are required.

### Water quality

Another topic of concern is water quality. Commencing in 2018, the GNA group and Sibanye-Stillwater undertook significant work on the adaptive management plan (AMP) that will determine water quality parameters in the GNA. Current water quality requirements are more protective than existing state and federal regulatory standards.

Through the GNA, we are working with the Stillwater Protective Association and Cottonwood Resource Council to develop a stakeholder-driven, independent water monitoring and assurance plan aligning with the goals and objectives of the GNA. The AMP will be adjusted as conditions change, knowledge improves, regulatory criteria are modified or as targets change. The AMP will trigger actions by Sibanye-Stillwater in response to water quality metrics that are more stringent than required by state and federal law. Mitigation activities will be triggered even when levels of water contaminants are well below state and federal trigger limits. It provides a proactive method for catching potentially impacted areas much earlier than under state and federal law. The AMP is expected to be finalised in 2020.

*For more information on our engagement with stakeholders, refer to our 2019 Integrated Annual Report.*



■ A Good Neighbor group catches, monitors and releases fish in the river close to our US PGM operations



### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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**OUR VISION:** Superior value creation for all our stakeholders through the responsible mining of our mineral resources