



OUR MINING IMPROVES LIVES



US PGM OPERATIONS



**WORKING  
TOGETHER  
THE GOOD NEIGHBOR  
AGREEMENT**



FACT SHEET 2020

2020 marks a significant milestone achievement for Sibanye-Stillwater’s Montana, US operations.

It represents 20 years since the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) was signed representing a commitment by both the mines and their surrounding communities. In 2000, Stillwater signed the GNA with three local stakeholder organisations: the Northern Plains Resource Council, the Stillwater Protective Association and the Cottonwood Resource Council.

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.

In 1990, the Stillwater mine was looking to build a new tailings facility, downstream from the mine. The related exploratory work upset local residents who sought litigation. Realising that litigation would be arduous and costly, residents initiated negotiations with the mine to address their concerns. These negotiations laid the foundation for a constructive relationship with local residents and resulted in the creation of the GNA.

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 working groups meet as needed. One such working group to address water quality generally communicates at least weekly to address ongoing projects.

**“The GNA is a legally binding contract, that has over the years evolved and become a living collaborative document”**

The GNA is a legally binding contract, that has over the years evolved and become a living collaborative document that the parties are willing to adapt as the need requires. Members also meet socially throughout the year. In recent years, the Stillwater Protective Association has hosted a barbecue for the community at which Sibanye-Stillwater provides a site update and answers community questions. During the COVID-19 pandemic the parties have continued to engage remotely. The collective view is that the personal and social relationships are important to the GNA and that the parties look forward to when those can resume.



**OUR MINING IMPROVES LIVES**

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.

In the 20 years of the GNA’s existence, there has been no formal conflict, no arbitration and no environmental litigation – a significant achievement for any mining company.

**“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. A logistics co-ordinator focuses on consolidating commercial loads to reduce traffic to the Stillwater mine and signage, erected by Sibanye-Stillwater, on the way to the mine to encourages 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 on the East Boulder tailings storage facilities has continued. Construction of Stage 6 of the East Boulder tailings facility is slated to begin in the spring of 2021. The East Boulder Stage 6 facility is the first in Montana to be subject 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 Neighbor Agreement Councils, 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**

In 2020, the GNA Councils and Sibanye-Stillwater implemented an 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.

The AMP will be adjusted as conditions change, knowledge improves, regulatory criteria are modified or as targets change. Mitigation activities will be triggered even when levels of water contaminants are well below state and federal trigger limits and provides a proactive method for catching potentially impacted areas.

For more information on our engagement with stakeholders, refer to our 2020 Integrated Annual Report.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**James Wellsted**

**Senior Vice President: Investor Relations**

**Email:** [ir@sibanyestillwater.com](mailto:ir@sibanyestillwater.com)

**Website:** [www.sibanyestillwater.com](http://www.sibanyestillwater.com)

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