



**Licence Number** L8567/2011/1

**Licence Holder** Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd

**ACN** 116 649 122

**File Number:** 2012/006892

**Premises**  
Red October Gold Mine  
LEONORA WA 6438  
  
Mining Tenements M39/411, M39/412 and M39/413  
LEONORA WA 6438

**Date of Amendment** 18 July 2017

## Amendment

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has amended the above Licence in accordance with section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), as set out in this Amendment Notice. This Amendment Notice constitutes written notice of the amendment in accordance with section 59B(9) of the EP Act.

Date signed: 18 July 2017

**Tim Gentle**

**Manager – Resources Industries**

**LICENSING AND APPROVALS**

an officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA).

# Definitions and interpretation

## Definitions

In this Amendment Notice, the terms in Table 1 have the meanings defined.

**Table 1: Definitions**

Term	Definition
<b>‘Act’</b>	means the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
<b>‘annual period’</b>	means the inclusive period from 1 November until 31 October in the following year
<b>‘AS/NZS 5667.1’</b>	means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 5667.1 <i>Water Quality – Sampling Guidance on the design of sampling programs, sampling techniques and the preservation and handling of samples.</i>
<b>‘AS/NZS 5667.4’</b>	means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 5667.4 <i>Water Quality – Sampling – Part 4: Guidance on sampling from lakes, natural and man-made</i>
<b>‘averaging period’</b>	means the time over which a limit is measured or a monitoring result is obtained
<b>‘CEO’</b>	means Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
<b>‘CEO’</b>	for the purpose of correspondence means; Chief Executive Officer Department Administering the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> Locked Bag 33 CLOISTERS SQUARE WA 6850 Email: <a href="mailto:info@der.wa.gov.au">info@der.wa.gov.au</a>
<b>Compliance Report</b>	means the compliance report due at the end of the annual period by the date specified on the form found at <a href="https://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/regulatory-framework">https://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/regulatory-framework</a>
<b>DWER</b>	means the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation;
<b>‘Licence’</b>	means this Licence numbered L8564/2011/1 and issued under the Act
<b>‘Licence Holder’</b>	means the person or organisation named on page 1 of the Licence
<b>‘NATA’</b>	means the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia
<b>‘NATA accredited’</b>	means in relation to the analysis of a sample that the laboratory is NATA accredited for the specified analysis at the time of the analysis
<b>‘Premises’</b>	means the area defined in the Premises Map in Schedule 1 and listed as the Premises address on page 1 of the Licence
<b>‘quarterly’</b>	means the 4 inclusive periods from 1 April to 30 June, 1 July to 30 September, 1 October to 31 December and in the following year, 1 January to 31 March

<b>'Schedule 1'</b>	means Schedule 1 of this Licence unless otherwise stated
<b>'Schedule 2'</b>	means Schedule 2 of this Licence unless otherwise stated
<b>'spot sample'</b>	means a discrete sample representative at the time and place at which the sample is taken
<b>'usual working day'</b>	means 0800 – 1700 hours, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays in Western Australia

## Amendment Notice

This amendment is made pursuant to section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) to amend the Licence issued under the EP Act for a prescribed premises as set out below. This notice of amendment is given under section 59B(9) of the EP Act.

This notice is limited to changes to monitoring frequency of dewater and ambient sediment conditions requested by the Licence Holder with no changes to the original licence Category 6 and 89. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has initiated administrative changes to the annual Compliance Report condition, the reporting form and included the extension of the licence expiry date amended by Amendment Notice dated 29 April 2016.

MS 518 was reviewed to ensure the conditions under the Part IV Ministerial Statement and Part V Licence conditions pursuant to the Act have not been duplicated.

The following guidance statements have informed the decision made on this amendment;

- *Guidance Statement: Regulatory Principles* (July 2015)
- *Guidance Statement: Licence Duration* (August 2016)
- *Guidance Statement: Decision Making* (November 2016)
- *Guidance Statement: Risk Assessment* (November 2016)
- *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (November 2016)

## Amendment description

The Red October Gold Project (Red October) is operated by Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd (Saracen) and located approximately 80 km south of Laverton on the western shore of Lake Carey, a large ephemeral salt lake. Red October consists of an historic open pit and an active underground mine accessed from the base of the open pit. Operation of the underground mine, situated in the southern part of Lake Carey, requires dewatering in order to allow for the safe extraction of gold-bearing ore. The pit is located in the southern part of Lake Carey between two islands and is also flanked by two bunds. The mine site also includes a waste rock landform, access roads, causeways, administrative buildings, contractor workshop with wash bay and fuel storage, drill core storage, explosives magazine and a 100 bed camp. Red October was scheduled to operate until late 2016.

On 19 May 2017 Saracen identified the operations at Red October were transitioning into care and maintenance and requested dewater and sediment monitoring frequencies be amended to reflect the transitional status of the operations. Saracen also requested that the approved production capacity remain unchanged in the event that the site comes out of care and maintenance and recommences operations.

DWER has included into this amendment administrative changes to the annual Compliance Report condition and removed the reporting form from the licence schedule plus changed the Licence expiry date as amended on 29 April 2016.

## Amendment history

Table 2 provides the history for L8567/2011/1 since 1 June 2007.

**Table 2: L8567/2011/1 history**

Instrument	Issued	Amendment
L8038/1999/2	01/06/2007	Licence re-issue
L8038/1999/3	19/11/2009	Licence re-issue
W4747/2010/1	22/10/2010	Works approval for mine dewatering and bulk storage of chemicals

L8567/2011/1	07/07/2011	Licence re-issue
L8567/2011/1	10/09/2015	Licence amendment to remove chlorine from monitoring regime and to convert into latest template.
L8567/2011/1	07/01/2016	Licence amendment to change sample measurement units
L8567/2011/1	29/04/2016	Amendment Notice to extend expiry date to 6 July 2034.
L8567/2011/1	18/07/2017	Amendment Notice 1 to change monitoring frequency as Premises operations transitions to care and maintenance.

## Decision

Licence Holder application seeks to reduced dewater and sediment monitoring frequency conditioned by the Licence as the Premises transitions into care and maintenance and ensure that monitoring is completed when discharges occur or when operations recommence. The production capacities will remain unchanged in the Licence.

The Delegated Officer has considered the risk to the emissions and determined they will be reduced from that assessed previously and has determined that the Red October transition from operations to care and maintenance will result in reduced emissions that will be acceptable to public health and the environment and therefore grants this amendment. Should operations recommence then the emissions risk will return to that as assessed at the Licences design capacity for Category 6 and 89.

The Licence expiry has been amended to Thursday 6 July 2034 as approved in Amendment Notice dated 29 April 2016.

The Delegated Officer has amended Licence conditions 1.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.4.1, and 4.2.1 to allow for monitoring frequency to be reduced as the project is placed in care and maintenance. The amendments also allow for the monitoring frequency to increase in the event that the site comes out of care and maintenance. Also, a DWER administrative amendment to licence condition 4.1.3, the Compliance Report, plus the deletion of the Annual Audit Compliance Report form from Schedule 2 of the licence. The new Compliance Report form is available from the DER website at <https://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/regulatory-framework>

No other changes to the Licence conditions have been made as a result of this amendment.

## Licence Holder's comments

The Licence Holder was provided with the draft Amendment Notice on 13 July 2017. Comments received from the Licence Holder have been considered by the Delegated Officer as shown in Appendix 2.

## Amendment

- Definitions of the Licence are amended by the insertion of the red text shown in underline below:  
"Compliance Report" means due at the end of the annual period by the date specified on the form found at <https://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/regulatory-framework>  
"DWER" means the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- The licence duration has been extended from Thursday 6 July 2017 to Thursday 6 July 2034.

3. Conditions 1.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.4.1, 4.1.3 and 4.2.1 of the Licence is amended by the deletion of the text shown in strikethrough and the insertion of the red text shown in underline below:

- 1.2.2 The Licensee shall prepare a dewatering discharge report when discharges occur which will provide adequate data to show that mine dewatering discharges to Lake Carey are not having any adverse environmental impact. The required information should come in the form of a concise report, which should include:
- (a) dewater discharge (volume and quality) as compared to runoff into the waterbody and water quality (salts and metals) of the receiving waters;
  - (b) the area of the waterbody likely to be affected by the discharge and effects on waterbody levels resulting from the discharge;
  - (c) the potential for water to flow along/out of the receiving waterbody
  - (d) the potential impacts on vegetation and existing ecosystems;
  - (e) water balance estimates;
  - (f) chemistry of the waterbody; and
  - (g) findings , conclusions and recommendations

- 3.3.1 The Licensee shall undertake the monitoring in Table 3.3.1 according to the specifications in that table.

<b>Table 3.3.1: Process monitoring</b>					
<b>Monitoring point reference</b>	<b>Process description</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Method</b>
W1	Volume of mine dewater	Volume	kL	Monthly <u>when in operation</u>	None specified

- 3.4.1 The Licensee shall undertake the monitoring in Table 3.4.1 according to the specifications in that table.

Table 3.4.1: Monitoring of ambient sediment quality				
Monitoring point reference and location	Parameter	Units	Averaging period	Frequency
50m, 100m and 200m from W1	pH	-	Spot sample	Annually <u>when in operation.</u>
	Total dissolved solids	mg/kg		
	Total recoverable hydrocarbons			
	Metals: cadmium, selenium, iron, cobalt, lead, copper, nickel, zinc, arsenic and chromium			
	Major anions and cations: sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, bicarbonate and sulfate			
	Salt crust thickness			

- 4.1.3 The Licensee shall submit to the CEO by 31 January of each year, a complete an-  
~~Annual Audit Compliance Report~~ indicating the extent to which the Licence Holder  
~~Licensee~~ has complied with the Conditions in this of the Licence for the Annual Period.  
~~and any previous licence issued under Part V of the Act for the Premises for the previous annual period.~~

- 4.2.1 The Licensee shall submit to the CEO an Annual Environmental Report by 31 January in each year. The report shall contain the information listed in Table 4.2.1 in the format or form specified in that table.

<b>Table 4.2.1: Annual Environmental Report</b>		
<b>Condition or table (if relevant)</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Format or form<sup>1</sup></b>
-	Summary of any failure or malfunction of any pollution control equipment and any environmental incidents that have occurred during the annual period and any action taken	None specified
1.3.4	Dewatering discharge report <u>when in operation.</u>	
Table 3.2.1	Monitoring of point source emissions to surface water	
Table 3.3.1	Process monitoring	
Table 3.4.1	Ambient sediment monitoring <u>when in operation.</u>	
4.1.3	<del>Compliance</del>	<del>Annual Audit Compliance Report (AACR)</del>
4.1.4	Complaints summary	None specified

Note 1: Forms are in Schedule 2

4. The Licence is amended by the deletion of the Schedule 2 “Annual Audit Compliance Report form” which is now available from DWER website at <https://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/regulatory-framework>

## Appendix 1: Key documents

	Document title	In text ref	Availability
1	Licence L8567/2011/1 – Red October Gold Mine	L8567/2011/1	accessed at <a href="http://www.dwer.wa.gov.au">www.dwer.wa.gov.au</a>
2	Licence Amendment application and supporting documentation dated 19 May 2017: Saracen Gold Pty Limited, 19 May 2017, <i>Licence amendment application – Red October Gold Mine</i> – including all appendices, drawings and attachments	Application	DWER record – A1445157
3	Ministerial Statement 518 Red October Gold Project, 80 Km South of Laverton, Environmental Protection Act 1986 <i>Statement No. 000518, Assessment Number 1245 Bulletin 936 dated 2 August 1999.</i>	MS 518	accessed at <a href="http://www.epa.wa.gov.au">www.epa.wa.gov.au</a> DWER record - A1460650
4	DER, July 2015. <i>Guidance Statement: Regulatory Principles.</i> Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2015a	accessed at <a href="http://www.dwer.wa.gov.au">www.dwer.wa.gov.au</a>
5	DER, August 2016. <i>Guidance Statement: Licence Duration.</i> Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2016a	
6	DER, November 2016. <i>Guidance Statement: Decision Making.</i> Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2016c	
7	DER, November 2016. <i>Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments.</i> Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2016b	
8	DER, October 2015. <i>Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions.</i> Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2015b	



## Appendix 2: Summary of Licence Holder comments

The Licence Holder was provided with the draft Amendment Notice on 13 July 2017 for review and comment. The Licence Holder responded on 14 July 2017 waiving the remaining comment period. No comments were submitted on the draft Amendment Notice.

Condition	Summary of Licence Holder comment	DWER response
N/A	No comments provided on the draft Amendment Notice	N/A