

SUBMISSION TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN
PARLIAMENT

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS

ACID MINE DRAINAGE HEARINGS

EVIDENCE THAT IDENTIFIES THE
ORGANIZATION PRIMARILY
RESPONSIBLE FOR ACID MINE
DRAINAGE ON THE WITWATERSRAND

24 JUNE 2011

Submitted by

David Rowe
Seattle, Washington USA
salmonchef@gmail.com
+1 (202) 630-3814

INTRODUCTION

I respectfully submit for your consideration, evidence that identifies the organization primarily responsible for Acid Mine Drainage on the Witwatersrand.

I am a private citizen and respectfully ask you to my respect my privacy. I have become concerned about this issue because it has a significant and direct impact on me, even though I live in Seattle, USA.

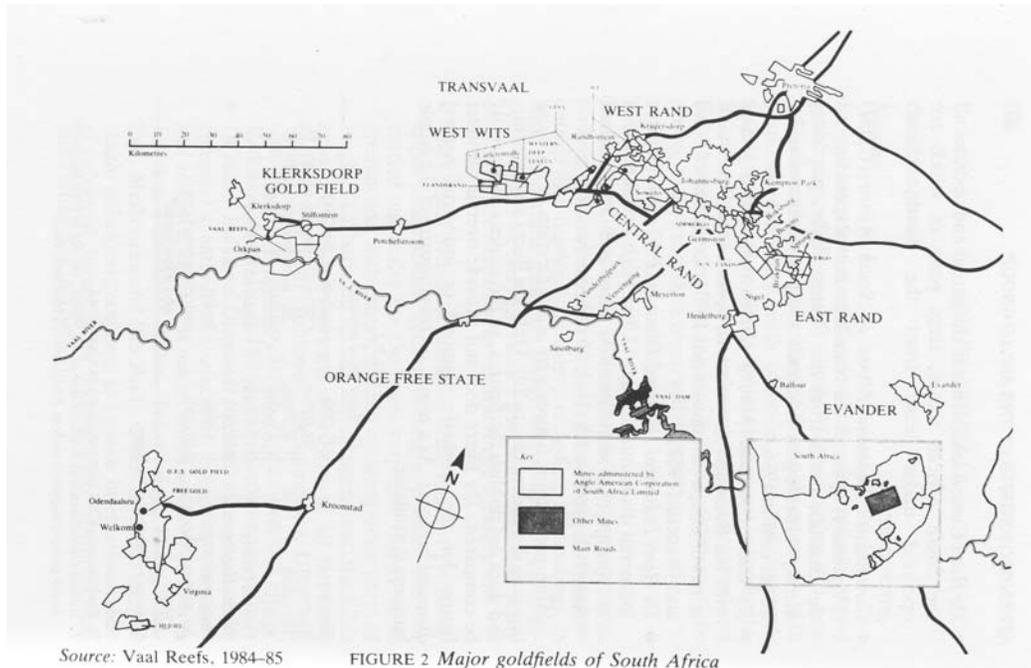
In general, the South African Government has laid the blame of Acid Mine Drainage on ownerless abandoned mines. Others have targeted junior mining organizations. Both miss the primary culprits. My intent in this submission to you is to provide you with the evidence that identifies the organization primarily responsible for the endless disaster South Africa is now facing.

I provide the information and evidence below. Contrary to the claims about ownerless or junior mining organizations, the leading organization that abandoned the Witwatersrand to a toxic Chernobyl scale disaster is thriving with impunity. Despite your remarkable constitutional obligations with regard to an informed people and a healthy environment, and empowered with strong criminal laws for company directors, the Government and the Press has not held this organization accountable. Their dominant name is so remarkably absent from being associated with South Africa's disaster that one might wonder if the claims about ownerless mines are a cover to shield the powerful.

TWO THIRDS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S GOLD WAS PRODUCED BY THIS ORGANIZATION

Until the 1980's, two thirds of gold in South Africa was produced by Anglo American through a complex and obtuse weave of mining organizations. Anglo American exercised direct control in over 600 major companies in South Africa and controlled over 50 percent of the value of the South African Stock Exchange.

Anglo American used to advertise; "Wherever you find gold, chances are that we had something to do with it." Below, as this map by an Anglo American subsidiary attests, their control of the Witwatersrand gold mines was almost complete. Despite a variety of names, with few exceptions most Witwatersrand mines were administered by Anglo American.



From South Africa Inc. by David Pallister, Sarah Stewart and Ian Lepper, page 308

For much of the time, Anglo American was fully aware of the inevitable environmental catastrophe it was creating. Beginning in the 1950's, and continuing to the present, many dozens of government and academic studies in South Africa identified serious acid mine drainage issues. The Federation for a Sustainable Environment has published a list of those studies. Anglo American did not adapt their operations, to avoid Acid Mine Drainage. Instead, they found sophisticated ways to abandon their hometown to their toxic legacy and move their capital overseas with impunity.

SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

For documentary evidence, please refer to;

“South Africa Inc.” by David Pallister, Sarah Stewart and Ian Lepper, published by Yale University Press of New Haven. I have attached a relevant extract from this book. The map above is from page 308 of this book.

The extract provided describes how Anglo American used irregular ownership schemes to leverage their control. It also describes the types of control they exercised and the mining houses they controlled. Obtain the extract at <https://public.me.com/davrowe>.

“Anglo American and the Rise of Modern South Africa”, by Duncan Innes, published by Monthly Review Press of New York. I have also attached a relevant extract from this book.

The extract provided also describes how Anglo American used irregular ownership schemes to leverage their control. It also lists the many companies Anglo American controlled and describes the nature of control of each. Obtain the extract at <https://public.me.com/davrowe>.

I request forgiveness in the public interest from the publishers for copying their books.

CONCLUSION

Your remarkable constitutional obligations provide for an informed people and a healthy environment. Contrary to business apologists who say otherwise, the laws in effect when Anglo American committed their environmental crimes are adequate to hold them accountable. There are strong criminal laws for company directors. The Government and the Press has not held this organization accountable. The wonderful people of South Africa deserve much better. Please serve them well.