

The Environmental Policy Committee

The EPC is a high level committee of the Chamber of Mines, administered within its environmental advisory function. The committee focuses on those aspects of mining which affect the environment as well as on those aspects of environmental policy and legislation that could impact on the viability of the South African mining industry and impinge on the interests of its members.

Membership of the committee includes representatives of Chamber members, relevant advisers and appropriate Chamber officials and co-opted experts as needed. The EPC also allows for the participation of non-Chamber organisations on an ad hoc basis, when necessary to advance and / or broaden the Chamber's advocacy and lobby thrust.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment on the Executive Committee should chair the EPC, but may, however, arrange for the committee to be chaired by a suitable Chamber official.

In accordance with the terms of reference of the EPC, meetings are held on a needs basis but at least once a quarter. The committee considers and notes circulars on a variety of issues that have implications to the mining industry. The EPC considers industry positions on such issues and where necessary submits these to the Chamber's Executive Council for approval.

The EPC had its inaugural meeting on 6 November 1997, during agreement was reached on the following points:

- the EPC should report directly to the Executive Council to streamline its functioning but, when appropriate, commodity-specific issues would be referred to the relevant principal committee
- non-Chamber member mining interests could be invited to participate in meetings of the EPC on a needs-driven basis as and when their support was required to further the Chamber's lobbying and advocacy function
- the Terms of Reference should be viewed as a dynamic document, which could be adapted to meet the changing national and international circumstances affecting mining and the environment.