

# **MOTUOANE ENERGY GAS EXPLORATION IN THE FREE STATE**

**1709 Motuoane Production Right (PR)  
EIA  
COMMENTS DUE **23 FEBRUARY 2026****

**(Masilonyana and Matjhabeng Local  
Municipalities, in the Lejweleputswa  
District Municipality, Free State Province)**



**Community Guide  
How to Comment on the PR Application**

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Proposed extraction and production activities will:**



Target helium and methane gas.



Drill up to 43 production wells.



Gas gathering pipelines.



A helium recovery and gas processing plant (CNG and/or LNG) and other related infrastructure.

In 2024, **Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd** (Motuoane/ the Applicant) was granted an **Exploration Right (ER)** by the Petroleum Agency South Africa (PASA) to look for gas fields in the Free State.

The Applicant is now applying to change a portion of their existing ER area (ER315) into a **Production Right (PR)**.

The proposed extraction and production activities will target helium and methane gas. They will include drilling up to 43 production wells, gas-gathering pipelines, a helium recovery and gas-processing plant (CNG and/or LNG), and other related infrastructure.\*

## ***Exploration vs Production***

**Exploration** is activities undertaken, such as conducting seismic surveys and drilling test wells, to discover if there are minerals and petroleum, including oil and gas. Once these places have been identified, **Production** is the process of extracting petroleum resources (like oil, gas and condensate) from the earth and ocean floor. If a PR is granted, it gives a company the right to remove oil or gas over longer periods of time.

\*See EIMS website for more information here: <https://www.eims.co.za/2025/11/06/1709-motuoane-production-right-eia/>

# WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO KNOW?

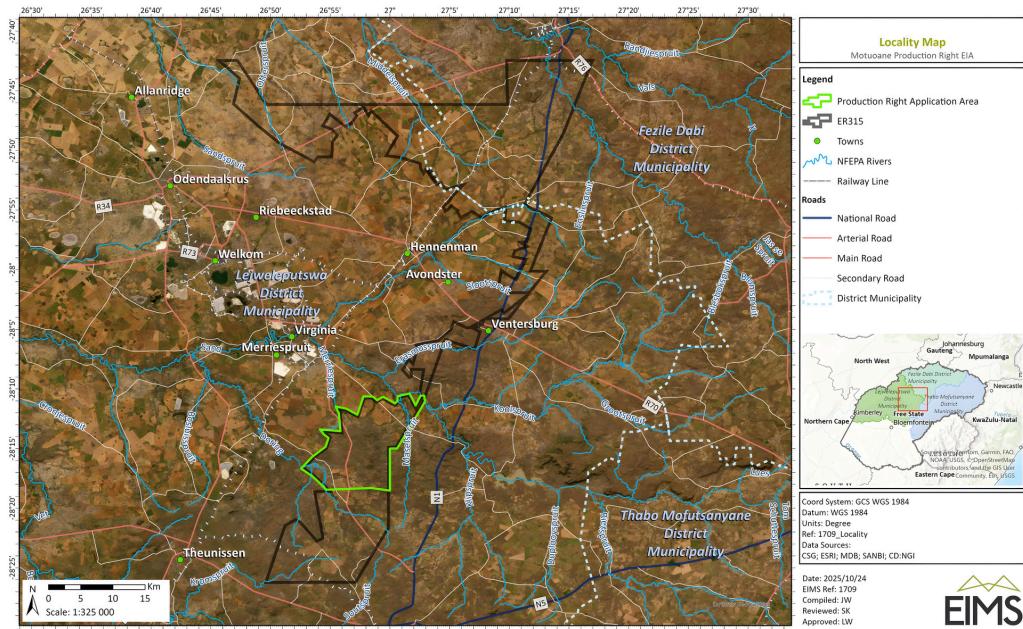


Figure 1: Locality Map, Motouane PR Area. Affected communities include Virginia/ Meloding; Theunissen/ Makeleketa; and Ventersburg/ Mmamahabane. Source: <https://www.eims.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/Public/1709/SR/AppA.pdf>

Motouane has applied for a **Production Right**. The law requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be done. This process assesses the possible positive and negative impacts of the proposed project. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) appointed to conduct this assessment is *EIMS*, which will undertake the required processes, including public participation, compiling reports, and providing support for the proposed project.

The process is currently at the beginning of the EIA process, the Scoping Phase. A [Background Information Document \(BID\)](#) with an overview of the application has been published to inform the public. Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP), such as local communities, are invited to register to submit comments on the project.

 *This current EIA process is specifically to assess the impacts of the proposed production activities. At this stage, no in-person meetings are planned. Communities and other affected parties can participate by writing and submitting comments.*

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Your views on the environmental and social impacts of this project, as communities, matter. This opportunity allows you to raise your questions, concerns, and knowledge about how this project may affect your environment, community, and future.



## 1. Be Informed: Read the BID

All project documents can be accessed online here:

<https://www.eims.co.za/2025/11/06/1709-motuoane-production-right-eia/>.

The BID provides you with an opportunity to contribute and participate in the formulation of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports.



## 2. Register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)

Send an email to Alex Msipa or Mbali Tshabalala here:

[motuoane386@eims.co.za](mailto:motuoane386@eims.co.za) (Reference: "1709") or calling **011 789 7170**.



## 3. Write and Send Your Comments

**DUE 23 FEBRUARY 2026**

send to: *Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS)*  
Attention: **Alex Msipa or Mbali Tshabalala**  
EIMS Reference Number: **1709**



**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 2083; Pinegowrie; 2123



**Telephone:** (011) 789 7170/ Fax: (086) 571 9047



**E-mail:** [motuoanepr@eims.co.za](mailto:motuoanepr@eims.co.za)

For more information visit [www.eims.co.za/public-participation/](https://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/).

See a guide on how to comment - *Public Participation Toolkit* developed by Natural Justice below.