



**ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI**

**WEST AFRICA DIVISION**

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## **Media release – Iduapriem environmental issues; April 28 2008**

In mid April, details of research conducted by the Water Research Institute (WRI), of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), was released to the media in Ghana by the NGO FoodFirst Information and Action Network (FIAN)-Ghana. The report alleged that effluent from pipes at bungalows and offices used by staff at our Iduapriem mine were being discharged into the surrounding physical environment. The research found, further, that this waste was not bacteriologically safe to be discharged into the environment.

We were surprised at this report, as effluent from those facilities is, depending on the location, either directed into a treatment plant where it is treated, or collected in independent septic tanks. Nonetheless, following publication of this report, our West African head of environmental management arranged to visit the relevant sites to investigate the veracity of this information.

He has now reported back to management his finding that, while this system is, for the most part, operating effectively, there are certain pipes leading from these septic tanks into the nearby forest. It does appear that a limited amount of effluent has been released into that location, though not, as far as we were able to observe, into any surface water bodies.

This flaw in our system, though somewhat less serious than suggested in some media reports, is greatly regretted by AngloGold Ashanti management, and we apologise to any members of the community who may have been affected by it.

AngloGold Ashanti CEO Mark Cutifani has instructed that this situation be corrected immediately. The offending pipes connected to the septic tanks will be removed and the design of the septic tanks reviewed to ensure that there is no discharge of domestic effluent into the environment, no matter how limited. We expect this project to be completed within one week.

In addition, the mine is to implement a comprehensive mine-wide environmental assessment. Simultaneously, a parallel survey will be conducted by an independent consultant. We expect this exercise to be completed by the end of May 2008

Furthermore, the head of our West African operations, Christian Rampa Luhembwe has undertaken that he will personally invite the head of the WRI research project, Dr. J.A. Ampofo, and the Co-ordinator of FIAN-Ghana, Mr Mike Anane, to visit the site to re-examine issues of concern regarding food security in the vicinity. We will investigate any matters raised by them.

Finally, as is well known in the community, Iduapriem mine management meets community representatives regularly in formally established forums where all issues affecting those communities are discussed. This includes the findings of the regularly monitoring of water quality. Monitoring is also conducted regularly by the country's Environmental Protection Agency. These processes will naturally continue.

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