

Regional DMR offices assist with applications

By Deborah Spicer

While the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) requires that applicants for mineral rights apply for these online, industry role-players suggest that those interested in securing mineral rights approach their regional DMR offices in person, with a flash disk in hand.

This, at least, was the suggestion of a prominent Johannesburg lawyer, who recommended this strategy to industry participants and Earth Science honours students at the Venmyn and Pretoria University Compliance and Reporting in the Minerals Industry course last month.

The lawyer noted that the South African Mineral Resources Administration System (SAMRAD) had been offline for the two days prior to his presentation at the course.

In addition, when users try and use the online application portal they typically get an error message.

Venmyn experienced the same occurrence when it tested the system, and the following message was encountered: "Timeout expired. The timeout period elapsed prior to completion of the operation or the server is not responding. The statement has been terminated."

Successful applicants note that the regional authorities will load applicants' applications at their helpdesks if applicants are experiencing difficulties and will provide the necessary receipts for the applications.